

CHAPTER V

WORK IN SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE, WINNEZEELE AREA, FROM JULY 1ST TO JULY 10TH

JULY 1ST—FAIR

This day was allowed as a rest day, Sunday having been taken for road march. Other than the regular guard and fatigue duties a road march, without packs, of one hour and a half was given each platoon as a unit. The remainder of the day was spent in resting and cleaning up.

JULY 2ND TO 5TH—FAIR

First Battalion

During this period the First Battalion and attached pioneer platoons were engaged in the betterment and completion of the Winnezele-Steenvorde system of defenses from the north side of the Le Brear-Le Pyplier road at V 6 c 4.0 to P 11 c 4.0 (*see Plate V*). This work consisted in erecting wire entanglements, laying out trenches and machine gun emplacements and the construction of the same. A portion of the wire entanglement consisted of one belt of standard double apron wire with three panels of high wire in the rear. This was erected on the southern end of the work. On the northern end two belts of standard double apron wire were constructed with two belts of low wire between. In all of this construction some of the wire, usually two belts, had already been constructed. Two hundred yards of fire trench that had not been previously marked out was located and partially dug. The hedges along the line were trimmed so as to give a better view of the field of fire. Seven machine gun emplacements were located, all marked by signs, and work started on some of them after camouflaging the location. Forty-eight knife rests

were made and placed at the points where roads crossed the wire entanglements.

During this period the men all bathed in baths operated by the French troops, who were stationed in Terdeghem, where there was a large field hospital.

On July 4th work was stopped at noon, and the afternoon made a holiday.

The following report by Capt. E. W. Myers, commanding the First Battalion, shows work done by the First Battalion during this period and also from June 19th.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BATTALION 105TH ENGINEERS AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES FRANCE

July 11th, 1918.

FROM: C. O. 1st Battalion 105th Engineer Regiment.

TO: Commanding Officer 105th Engineers.

SUBJECT: Report on Engineer Training from beginning of training period, June 19th, 1918, to July 11th, 1918.

1. Training Areas:

	From:	To:
Alembon area	6/19/18	6/27/18.
Terdeghem area	6/30/18	7/ 6/18.
Oxelaere area	7/ 6/18	7/10/18.

2. Composition of Training:

(a) Infantry Drill, one hour per day, close order drill under platoon Commanders.

(b) Infantry instruction in Musketry (British Rifle) Bayonet Combat and Gas. Infantry instruction under direction of officers and enlisted men of 13th Gloucester Battalion (Pioneers). All companies one hour per day Musketry Drill, except when at Terdeghem, when time was devoted entirely to Engineer-